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Amendment Filed on: **HEREWITH**

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 12 and 14. (Canceled)

--9. (Amended) An emulsion paint, comprising:

i) a polymeric binder, which comprises at least one copolymer P of ethylenically unsaturated monomers M in the form of an aqueous polymer dispersion; [which] wherein said copolymer P has a glass transition temperature [TG] T_g in the range of from -10 to +50°C[,]; and [which contains]

wherein said copolymer P comprises in polymerized form

a) [0.1] 0.5 to [1.5] 1.0% by weight[, based on the overall weight of the copolymer P,] of [itaconic acid as] an acidic monomer M1[,] selected from the group consisting of itaconic acid, a [its] salt of itaconic acid [and/or its] an anhydride of itaconic acid and a combination thereof, [it being possible for up to 50% by weight of the itaconic acid to be replaced by another monomer having at least one acid group or one neutralized acid group,] based on a total weight of said copolymer P;

b) [at least 80] 90 to 99.9% by weight of monomers M2[,] selected from the group consisting of vinylaromatic monomers, [the] esters of ethylenically unsaturated C₃-C₈ monocarboxylic acids with C₁-C₁₂-alkanols, and [the] vinyl esters of aliphatic C₁-C₁₂ monocarboxylic acids[,]based on the total weight of said copolymer P; and

c) 0.1 to 10% by weight of at least one monomer M3 comprising an urea group, based on the total weight of said copolymer P;

[which contains]

wherein said copolymer P [contain] contains no polymerized acrolein[,];

ii) at least one inorganic pigment[,]

iii) [if desired,] an inorganic [fillers/extenders] filler/extender, and

iv) [customary auxiliaries] an auxiliary.

10. (Amended) The emulsion paint [as defined in claim 9] according to Claim 9, wherein itaconic acid is the sole acidic monomer M1.

11. (Amended) The emulsion paint [as defined in claim 9] according to Claim 9, wherein the monomers M2 are selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, n-butyl methacrylate, tert-butyl methacrylate, ethyl acrylate, n-butyl acrylate, tert-butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexyl acrylate.

12. (Amended) The emulsion paint [as defined in claim 9] according to Claim 9, wherein the monomers M additionally comprise from 0.1 to 10% by weight[, based on the overall weight of the copolymer P,] of monomers M3 comprising urea groups, based on the total weight of said copolymer P.

13. (Amended) The emulsion paint [as defined in claim 9] according to Claim 9, wherein the aqueous dispersion of the copolymer P is [obtainable] obtained by free-radical aqueous emulsion polymerization of the monomers M [in accordance with] using a monomer feed process [where] in which [at least 50% by weight and in particular] all of [the itaconic acid] said acidic monomer is present in the monomer feed.

15. (Amended) The emulsion paint [as defined in claim 9] according to Claim 9, wherein [the ratio of inorganic constituents to copolymer P is characterized by] a pigment

volume concentration pvc > 10%.

16. (Amended) A method of improving the wet abrasion resistance of a polymer-bound coating [compositions] composition, comprising [the use of a]:

mixing the copolymer [as defined in claim 9] according to Claim 9 as a binder [in] with said coating composition.

17. (Amended) The method [as claimed in claim 16] according to Claim 16, wherein the coating composition is an emulsion paint.--

Claims 18-42. (New).

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the abstract in its entirety and insert therefore:

--The wet abrasion resistance of polymer-bound pigmented coating compositions is improved by pigment-containing aqueous formulations which contain at least one copolymer P of ethylenically unsaturated monomers M in the form of an aqueous polymer dispersion; wherein the copolymer P has a glass transition temperature Tg in the range of from -10 to +50°C; and wherein the copolymer P contains in polymerized form a) as monomer M 1: 0.5 to 1.0% by weight of an acidic monomer selected from the group consisting of itaconic acid, a salt of itaconic acid an anhydride of itaconic acid and a combination thereof, and 0 to 0.5% by weight of a second monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid based on a total weight of the copolymer P; provided that a total amount of the acidic monomer and the second monomer is from 0.5 to 1.0% by weight, based on the total weight of the copolymer P, and the weight ratio of the second monomer to the acidic monomer does not exceed 1:1; b) 90 to 99.9 % by weight of monomers M2 selected from the group consisting of vinylaromatic monomers, esters of ethylenically

unsaturated C₃-C₈ monocarboxylic acids with C₁-C₁₂-alkanols, and vinyl esters of aliphatic C₁-C₁₂ monocarboxylic acids, based on a total amount of the copolymer P; and c) 0 to 10 % by weight of at least one monomer M3 which contains an urea group, based on the total weight of copolymer P; and wherein the aqueous polymer dispersion contains no polymerized acrolein; ii) at least one inorganic pigment, iii) an inorganic filler or an inorganic extender; and iv) an auxiliary.--